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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *January 1988*

中國國家土地管理局

Many distinguished foreign dignitaries have signed the SC guest book in the past few months. None of the inscriptions were more distinctive than the title of the delegation leader from the People's Republic of China—Director-General, State Land Administration.

The six-member delegation was headed by Wang Xianjin. Director-General Wang is equivalent in rank to our Secretary of the Interior. In China, however, all land is either owned by the State or by collectives governed by the State. Privately owned land is unknown. The history of land administration in China can be traced back 10,000 years. Systems evolved from the primitive and slave societies, 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, through the feudal society, 200 BC - 1840, and semi-feudal and semi-colonial periods, to the present socialist society.

In January 1987 a new land administration law was put into effect. The aim is to adopt administrative, legal, and technological methods to protect land resources. To help accomplish this task, the delegation came to the SC to compare our methods of resolving issues in land administration. They were interested in survey technology, methods of collecting and processing land status information, data base management, legislation, zoning, and land use planning.

Jon Abrams, Cadastral Survey Development Branch Chief, coordinated a guided tour through ALMRS and the Division of Technical Services, where the Chinese learned about the Bureau's Land Information System (LIS). With the recent increase in foreign visitors, our managers are becoming quite adept at conducting tours through interpreters.

Our Chinese guests talked extensively with Service Center Director Bob Moore and Division of Administrative Services Chief Ed Dettman. They discussed the Bureau's goals and accomplishments and the means for achieving balanced and effective multiple use of the public land. The visitors seemed intrigued by our private system of land ownership and the amount of paperwork required for a "simple land transaction." The process of resolving land ownership conflicts must be somewhat less complicated in China, where the State is the final authority.

At the conclusion of their stay in Denver, the delegation presented gifts to Moore and Dettman. Moore received a beautiful 8-inch statue of an empress. Dettman's gift was three male figures representing longevity, rank, and wealth.

In addition to their visit to Denver, the delegation traveled to the Farmington Resource Area, New York City, Washington DC, and San Francisco.

CFC Award

The Service Center received an outstanding campaign award from the Denver Metro Area Combined Federal Campaign at a luncheon December 9, 1987. Demiles Pedersen, Associate Service Center Director, and William Griffith, Chairperson, accepted the award on behalf of Service Center contributors. The Service Center led all government units in the Denver Area in total number of new contributors, 147. The 76 percent Service Center employee participation rate was the highest of all Interior agencies in the metro area.

Thanks to the team efforts of management, keyworkers, and most of all the hundreds of contributors, many people throughout the land will benefit from this generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Martin Luther King Day Observance
January 21
Bldg. 50—West/Center

Black History Month Observance
February 9 and 11
Bldg. 50—West/Center

Alarming Situation

Two years ago, Park Service employees here in Denver arrived at work Monday morning to find many of their IBM Selectric typewriters and computer terminals missing. Thieves simply drove a truck up to the building, forced their way in, and helped themselves to the equipment.

To prevent this from recurring, GSA has decided to install intrusion alarms in all buildings on the Federal Center. Two of BLM's buildings, 40 and 50, were among the first to be wired up.

Dorothy Ortiz, Facilities Maintenance Specialist with Office Services, helped write specifications for the work order. As a result of Dorothy's efforts, all exterior doors and windows have been alarmed and a third key card system—for the N-2 entrance—has been installed. Any attempt at illegal entry by forcing a locked door or breaking a window will trigger the alarm during the security hours. The silent alarm will automatically notify the Federal Protective Service police, who will then respond.

But the project didn't stop here. The Service Center handles sensitive information—Privacy Act documents and Bureau financial data—as part of its Bureau support mission. Recognizing this, the Division of Computer Operations worked with Dorothy and with Chuck Wood (SC ADP Security Officer) to design a security system.

As a result of this effort, cipher locks have been installed at all entrances to data processing areas and in the computer room itself. Since interior walls don't extend all the way from the floor to the permanent ceiling (building roof), the area above the false ceiling has been equipped with infrared motion detectors. Special care was taken to ensure that electronic cipher locks can be operated by handicapped employees.

"As a result of our efforts," notes Chuck Wood, "the Service Center can now better protect sensitive automated systems and manual documents from theft or unauthorized disclosure. The Service Center recognizes its security responsibilities and is prepared to meet them."

Meet your friendly CO

No, the Service Center really doesn't have a formal CO (Complaint Officer). However, we do have a Facilities Maintenance Specialist. And, like many official job titles, this one only hints at the day-to-day realities of the job.

Dorothy Ortiz is the Facilities Maintenance Specialist for the Service Center. She handles space management and the phone system, is the energy conservation coordinator (heating and air conditioning), and looks after lighting and ventilation for all or part of five BLM buildings.

Dorothy does design layouts for all projects and comes up with cost estimates. If projects are approved, she writes the specifications and acts as the Contracting Officer's Authorized Representative.

Recently, Dorothy oversaw the relocation of ALMRS to Building 40, which involved a lot of electrical and phone rewiring and contractor supervision. She's currently arranging for the carpeting of private offices, the library, and other areas in Building 50.

Dorothy is frequently swamped with work orders and projects, yet she has to stop everything to deal with broken plumbing, lack of heating or air conditioning, and other immediate concerns. It's not an easy job, yet somehow Dorothy always comes through

smiling and eager to help.

Chris Vance, Support Services Section Chief and Dorothy's supervisor, appreciates the difficulties. "We're always in a reactive mode, " observes Chris. "We frequently have to handle rush projects with little notice while at the same time dealing with day-to-day problems with air conditioning and other matters."

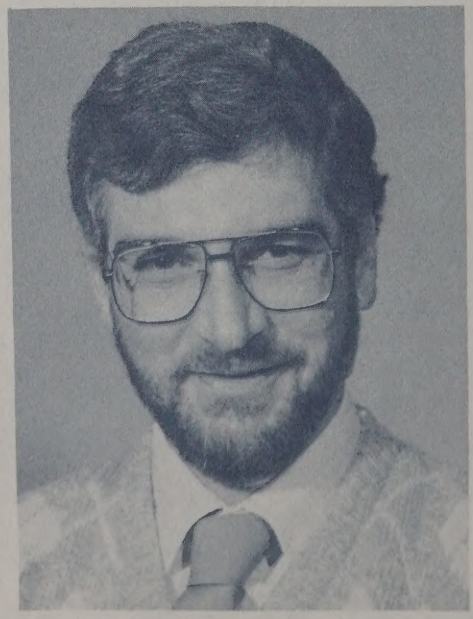
Dorothy obviously has a tough job. The fact that she can make it look so easy shows just how good she really is.

Outstanding

Service Center Budget Analyst David McWhirter received a sustained superior performance award for his outstanding work in 1987. He developed a Land Information System transitional plan that has been of significant value Bureauwide. His innovations in MBO tracking and budget preparations are also noteworthy.

After graduating from Utah State in 1970, Dave did ranch planning and snow depth testing in Utah for the Soil Conservation Service. His first BLM job was as a hydrologist in Richfield, Utah. He moved to Denver from Phoenix, where he had been State Office program leader for the soil, water, and air program and for range improvements.

Dave and his wife Theresa have seven children. No need to guess where the cash award will go.



FIRES

Those hazy, crazy days of summer are behind us now, and so are the headlines and newcasts about California's and Oregon's monster fires of 1987. However, for John Russell, Fire Management Specialist in the Branch of GIS Implementation, last summer featured some unforgettable fire control excitement.

As one of two Incident Commanders for BLM on a National Interagency Incident Management Team, John is assigned each summer to manage suppression of some of the Nation's largest and most complex wild fires. Ask John for figures on the numbers and sizes of 1987 fires and resources involved, and he will soon be drawing parallels to large fires of the 1930s.

John's busy fire season began July 30 with assignment to a fire on Nevada's Toiyabe National Forest. Then the huge disastrous fires in Oregon and California flared up at the end of August, and on September 1, John was assigned to the Case Mountain fire (location of the only natural groves of Giant Sequoia, some 13-15 feet in diameter, on BLM land) near Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, California.

John was next dispatched to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to manage a 14,000-acre fire. This fire, on the big island of Hawaii, burned 12,000 acres of grass, which was of no great concern to the Park Service. However, it also burned 2,000 acres of highly valuable Ohia native hardwood forest. Among 11 fire assignments in 3 years, the Hawaiian fire was unique and proved to be one of John's more interesting assignments.

If dry conditions persist through this coming winter and spring, John believes that 1988 may be an even more challenging fire year than 1987.

Gunslinging Surveyors

Silver City, N.M., Oct. 20, 1881—

"During the late Indian excitement, I found it necessary to have all my party heavily armed during entire time. The presence of six-shooters and Winchesters may have in a few instances affected the Magnetic Variation. But as I of course use the Solar attachment entirely it will not affect the work."